

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

OBJECTIONS

Claims 9-12 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper multiple dependent form. Claims 9-12 are amended to no longer be in multiple dependent form. Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cuzzo, et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,052,547). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, claims 2 and 24 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13, 16, 18, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cuzzo, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,052,547) in view of Maruta, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,516,157). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, claims 13, 16, 18, 20 and 22 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the allowance of claims 1, 3-12, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23.

The Examiner states that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends claim 14 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 14 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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